

Dear radioactive Ladies and Gentlemen,

Wolfgang Pauli's appellation from his famous 1930 letter postulating the neutrino is appropriate to your task and my subject.

I am here today as an NGO of one.

Paraphrasing Niels Bohr, the goal of science is the removal of prejudice, which is belief in the absence of evidence. Ionizing radiation is mostly natural and normal, and not dangerous (most likely even beneficial) at low activities.

On the third page of my handout, please observe the irrationality of our radiation standards, "protecting" us against a tiny fraction of average U.S. background and an even tinier fraction of the natural world-wide background variability. America's nuclear future cannot be properly addressed without including this crucial aspect.

I conclude:

Insistence on, and cadaverous compliance with, regulations without continuously questioning and justifying their factual and rational basis is the last refuge of the incompetent and malevolent. Astrologers add no value to an astronomy convention. Alchemists add no value to a chemistry convention. Do not ignore facts –ignore the purveyors of ignorance and disinformation.

Oral statement intended for -but prevented from being delivered at- the open meeting of the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future, Albuquerque, NM, Friday, January 28, 2011, by Norbert T. Rempe, 1403 N. Country Club Circle, Carlsbad, NM 88220, rempent@yahoo.com

"I first visited a German geologic repository for waste containing dangerous materials with infinite half-lives in 1973. It continues to operate safely. I have worked on deep geologic waste isolation for two decades and contributed to the professional literature, for example a review article in the Journal "Progress in Nuclear Energy" about former and still operating repositories. I also edited the book "Deep Geologic Repositories", published by the Geological Society of America."